THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE 22 November 1978

RETURNED BY DOD DATE

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MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: War Powers Reporting; November 1978 Evacuation of US Citizens and Bodies of US Citizens from Guyana

1. This memo supplements the Memorandum for Record, subject as above, dated 20 November 1978.

2. The following additional information has been received:

a. The government of Guyana and its defense forces have limited capabilitie to deal with the number of bodies involved, presently believed to be as man as 405, and has requested US Government support. The government of Guyana apparently considers that the US Government has the responsibility to assis in the situation since it appears only US citizens are involved.

b. The Peoples Temple Church commune is located at Jonestown, is extremely isolated, and limited to surface approach. Air facilities at Jonestown are jungle clearings.

c. No hostile threat is expected. Several hundred cultists may have fled into the surrounding jungle but do not pose a threat; however, some "hard core" cultists could be among the survivors--if so, they may be armed and dangerous.

d. The US force committed to Guyana for evacuation of US civilians and bodies is now expected to number 325 military support personnel. Personnel will carry individual side arms, to include M-16 rifles, for protection. Breakdown is as follows:

- Joint Task Force headquarters
- Graves Registration Teams
- Medical clearing platoon
- Medivac Helicopter company (-)
- Army/Air Force support elements.

Aircraft committed to the operation will include several helicopters due to the isolated location of Jonestown.

e. Government of Guyana defense and police forces are participating but hav limited capability and have no capability to effect evacuation without US support. The operation is expected to be completed within three to five days, at which time all US personnel will be withdrawn.

5. In my judgment, a report under the provisions of the War Powers Act (PL 93-148) is still not required for the reasons specified in the Memorandum for Record referred to above.

HAROLD L. MILLER
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Legal Adviser and Legislative
Assistant to the Chairman, JCS